

## THE BEST CLUB IN THE CITY.

Englishmen Mournfully Declare the House of Commons Has Fallen on Evil Times.

### ORATORY ALMOST FORGOTTEN.

Only Wealthy Men Can Stand the Financial Strain of Membership, Expense of Which Steadily Increases.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND TRIBUNE, March 5.—(Copyright, 1904.—St. Stephens, Westminster, is no longer what it used to be in many respects. It has fallen upon evil times. Once it was "the best club in Europe," nowadays it is a "collection of nobodies." There was a time when oratory was an art cultivated there. At the present date not even the conventional method of debate is held and members make long, tedious speeches which are intended to say "No." He is in the ear of the House of Commons as to meet the eyes of electors of Midhampton in the column of the newspaper.

All this, and much more to the same effect, is what one hears in parliamentary London at every end and turn. Nobody treats the jeremiads very seriously.

LABOUCHERE'S CHARGES.

A real sensation has been caused at Westminster itself, however, by an article which appears in the current issue of Truth referring to the late Mr. Drucker, Conservative member of Northampton in the last Parliament.

Mr. Labouchere says that, a short time before he entered Parliament, he inherited a fortune of about £200,000. He has since during the three years he was a member, Mr. Labouchere reproduces the statement of H. C. Richards, Tory member of East Finsbury, who declared that Mr. Drucker's losses were due to men who were his Parliamentary colleagues plundering him.

"Never would I have believed," said Mr. Richards, "unless I had seen and heard the plans of the vultures, what pitfalls there are for men of means in the House of Commons."

"I can vouch for the accuracy of this statement," adds Mr. Labouchere. "Mr. Drucker seemed unable to say 'No,' and these vultures induced him to take shares and subscribe to syndicates, most of which were utterly valueless."

Mr. Richards showed a tendency to back water when asked to be more explicit in his charges. He said he did not refer to the present House.

"ALL BUT ONE HAVE LEFT."

"With one exception," he declared, "I do not think any of the vultures are left. Honesty is the best policy, and elected by their own acts, have made it impossible for these people to sit there again."

Now people are asking, "Who is that one exception?"

Appropos of parliamentary matters, it is interesting to note that there are more members at present in Parliament who have decided not to seek re-election than at any period in recent times.

A member of money every year in his constituency. He is expected to contribute to hospitals and clubs and to assist a multitude of institutions and undertakings and to relieve many who have been overtaken by misfortune.

It is commonly reported that one member, who did a few years ago, was accustomed to spend £15,000 a year in his constituency.

NOT THE "BEST CLUB" NOW.

One qualified writer on this subject says: "The House of Commons is no longer the best club in Europe. It is becoming a business center, and members have to work hard to retain the confidence of their constituents. There are few, if any, apportionments in the gift of the Ministers which can even repay the members the expenses incurred in securing election."

"On the other hand, there is such a rush now of very wealthy men to the House who are anxious to obtain knight-hood or baronetcy, and who, when elected, hope to obtain appointment in the city as directors of companies."

"It is expensive to compete with the former, and the latter seriously injure the House, so far as character of the best club is concerned."

MERGE TEXAS TELEPHONES INTO ONE ORGANIZATION.

H. E. Huntington Interests Secure Control of All Important Lines, and Many Additions Planned.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

San Antonio, Tex., March 5.—As a result of a deal closed here the H. E. Huntington interests practically control the telephone situation in Texas, so far as the independent long-distance and local exchanges are concerned.

It is intended to establish an immediate distance independent telephone service to points out of San Antonio as far north as Kansas City and St. Louis.

By the deal Huntington acquired thirteen telephone exchanges, as follows: Austin, Taylor, Temple, Belton, Souders, Saratoga, Kountze, Woodville, Village, Kirbyville, Coll, Jasper and Bronson.

Included in this deal were the Commercial and Lone Star long-distance lines, covering more than 1,200 miles of long-distance service, and in East Texas the long-distance lines of the Beaumont Northwestern Telephone Company have been leased.

Previous to the deal Mr. Huntington had acquired the Houston, Galveston, Corsicana, Nacogdoches, San Marcos, Port Arthur, Liberty and several other small exchanges.

The price Huntington paid for his entire telephone holding in Texas exceeded \$1,000,000. He paid more than \$300,000 for the Commercial and Lone Star lines and the Austin, Taylor, Temple and Belton exchanges.

OPPOSE A SPONGERS' TRUST.

Wholesale Clothiers to Fight Against Exorbitant Charges.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, March 5.—The entire clothing trade is much exercised over the formation of what is termed the "spongers' trust," and steps are being taken by about twenty of the leading manufacturing firms to break it up.

The so-called trust is a serious matter to the trade, and the recent advance in prices of sponging anywhere from 100 to 300 per cent.

The so-called trust is a combination of all the leading sponging houses, about a score in number, and it is alleged that all competitors of the establishment have an agreement with the spongers, by which they are bound not to work for anyone outside of the spongers' combination.

Over the details of the agreement may be, and the spongers deny that any exists, the cost of sponging has gone up from 100 to 300 per cent. The rate for examining goods for imperfections, which was 2 to 5 cents with the same discounts, has also gone up to a flat rate of 1 cent a yard.

Some of the largest houses have started their own sponging plants, but the equipment of machinery is costly and only a few houses can afford the outfit. Many of the other houses are discussing a plan to pool their business and create a sponging plant that can handle it all.

The spongers deny that there is any trust, and say that the recent advance in prices was made necessary by demands for increased wages by their employees.

In reply to the clothiers' claim that the increase in wages, which amounted to \$2 a week per man, would not increase the expenses of the establishment more than \$3 or \$4 a week.

One large clothing house, whose sponging bill has run about \$250 a month, received a bill a few days ago for \$500 for a month's sponging, which did not exceed in the volume of goods the normal quantity.

## Hosiery Special.

Women's fine imported full-regular made black fancy silk-embroidered fine gauze and colored vertical stripe hose. In plain or lace open-work effects. High-spliced heels and double toes; these are 75c grades, and splendidly made hose, every pair perfect. On special sale Monday, 3 pairs for \$1.50. per yard. 35c

## A Button Bargain.

3,500 gross of fine quality Ocean Pearl Buttons, pure white, selected, staple sizes, 16, 18, 20 and 22 line; also 14 and 12 ball Ocean Pearl Buttons, plain and fish-eye styles, staple sizes, worth 10c, 12c and 15c a dozen; on sale Monday at. per dozen. 5c

## New Wash Goods.

OUR main-floor section is devoted to the sale of the high-class Wash Fabrics. It repletes with the newest novelties of the season. The prices as well as the materials are attractive.

### 25c Silk Warp Mousseline, 15c

Imported Silk-Warp Mousseline, in plain colors, lavender, Nile green, brown, cardinal, gray, light blue, champagne, navy, cream and black—goods that sell regular at 25c a yard—special, Monday, 15c per yard.

Melange Voile, 30 inches wide, both light and dark mixtures, of tan, royal, brown, navy, green, gray, dahlia and black; can be made up without lining warranted. fast color; per yard. 15c

Voile Sextette, 28 inches wide, in plain-colored and mixed grounds, both light and dark, overshot with cream and colored grounds with white flecks; 28c grades, special, Monday, per yard. 25c

Satin Liberty, 30 inches wide, light and dark grounds, with small and medium floral designs, an exact copy of all-silk liberty, laundries well; 45c grade, Monday, per yard. 29c

Embroidered Jacquardine, 26 inches wide, silk warp, resembles closely silk crepe and is more serviceable; colors are pink, gray, Nile green, lavender, dahlia, champagne, cream and black; 65c grade, Monday, per yard. 49c

## Room-Size Rugs.

OUR spring stock of Rugs and Carpets is double the size it has ever been. The Carpet section, on third floor, is literally filled to overflowing. We are offering values, too, such as we have rarely ever duplicated.

### Room-Size Brussels Rugs, \$8.25

That's one of our great bargains, and we believe it stands unparalleled. The size is 9x10.6; the patterns are excellent, and there is a good variety to choose from—\$12.50 is a fair estimate of their worth—on sale Monday at. \$8.25

Brussels Rugs, nine-wire, size 9x12 feet, excellent range of new patterns; \$18.00 values, Monday, at. \$12.50

Brussels Rugs, ten-wire, size 9x12 feet, newest spring patterns; \$18.00 values, Monday, at. \$14.00

Pro Brussels Rugs, medallion and scroll patterns, extra heavy, size 9x12 feet; worth fully \$12.00, Monday, at. \$9.00

Wilton Velvet Rugs, size 9x12 feet, beautiful Oriental designs; \$27.50 would be a low price for them—Monday's special price. \$19.75

Amximeter Rugs, size 9x12 feet, the best wearing Rugs made, exquisite patterns; \$32.50 values, Monday, at. \$21.75

## Buy Silks Now.

DON'T defer making your purchases. By the time you have your suits or waists made up the days for wearing them will be here. It is of material advantage to buy here, both on account of assortments and prices.

### \$1 Black Silk Grenadines, 59c

2,300 yards pure silk black Grenadines, in 5 different size ribbon stripes, with this mesh; also black with small white stripes, 42 inches wide—sell regularly at \$1.00 a yard—a special purchase permits us to offer them at, per yard. 59c

New Silks for Shirt-Waist Suits, including foulards, satins, Louisines, taffetas, peau de cygnes, pongees, etc., all small, neat effects in stripes, spots, dots, etc.; two special values, per yard. 59c and 75c

Genuine Imported Pongee, 34 inches wide, and Cloth of Gold or Champagne Shantung, 27 inches wide; \$1.25 grades, per yard. 98c

New Black Paillette de Soie or Peau de Cygnes, soft and very lustrous, for shirt-waist suits; \$1.00 quality, per yard. 85c

New Black Peau de Soie, double-faced, 27 inches wide; \$1.50 grade, per yard. \$1.19

New Black Crepe de Chine, 45 inches wide, two splendid values at, per yard, \$1.55 and. \$2.50

Black Taffeta, 42 inches wide, heavy rustling finish; \$1.75 grade, per yard. \$1.25

## Dress Trimmings.

A PURCHASE of several odd lots of new fancy Trimmings from one of the largest importers at 50c on the dollar is responsible for these exceptional offerings in fancy Dress Trimmings.

### 98c Dress Trimmings, 50c

About 250 pieces beautiful Silk Chi Fon and Embroidered Applique Trimmings, in black or white, medallion and floral designs, superb patterns, large leaf effects, fastness and quality, ranging from 2 to 4 1/2 inches wide; goods worth 95c a yard and upward; on sale Monday at, per yard. 50c

150 Pieces of French Novelty Trimmings, silk-embroidered taffeta, bands and appliques, fashioned gimp and passementerie in art novelty designs and colors; all desirable styles; worth \$1.50 to \$2.50 a yard, at. 98c

120 Pieces of High Art French Novelty Pieces, beautiful colors and combinations, many odd and original pieces, embroidered appliques and fancy passementerie; worth as high as \$5.00 a yard, all on sale at, per yard. \$1.50

Fancy Silk Pongee Garnitures, champagne color, embroidered collars and reverse fronts, worth \$2.00 and \$2.50; choice. \$1.00

Odd Lots and Samples of Garnitures, Collars, etc., spangled and silk; on sale at half their worth; prices are \$2.99, \$1.99 and. 75c

## An Exceptional Shoe Sale

IT IS exceptional for several reasons. The shoes are all thoroughly good, of superior make and come in 38 of the season's best styles, and every pair is desirable for spring wear. The original purchase consisted of 5,000 pairs, and as the sale has been in progress but two days there are complete assortments of all styles on hand. They come from Bering & Co., Cincinnati, O., a concern that is known as the maker of highest class footwear.

Not a pair in the lot is worth less than \$3.00, the majority being worth \$3.50 and \$4.00.

Leathers are French Kid, Patent Calf and Ideal Patent Leather, hand-sewed, Cuban, Concave, Military and Louis heels, complete line of sizes and widths; choice of the entire lot, per pair. \$1.95

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## New Eton Suits, Silk-Lined, \$19.75

THE Suits are right up to the moment in fashion; materials are fine imported broadcloths, chevots, French voiles and canvas cloth, lined with pure silk, made up exactly like illustration.

SOMEONE is taking a loss on these suits, and you can rest assured that someone is not Grand-Leader. If we were to go in the market to-day and contract for these suits we would pay a price that would compel us to sell them for no less than \$29.75, or ten dollars more. There are just 100, and when they are gone there is no telling whether we will be able to duplicate the offering.

THE style is a very handsome Eton with broad shoulder effect, neatly tailored and trimmed with military braid and taffeta straps, full pointed sleeves, separate self-cloth girdle trimmed to match coats and lined with taffeta and have fancy vest; skirts in the new seven-gore flare style, finished with self-folds, trimmed to match coat and foot-kits. All have separate heavy quality taffeta silk drop; materials are all-wool Lyonsville chevot, imported broadcloths, French voiles and canvas cloths; colors are black, blue and brown.

These garments are exceptionally well tailored, perfect in fit. They come in all sizes from 32 to 44. It is an unusual opportunity for buying a tailor-made suit for \$19.75 spring—Price...

Women's New Spring Coats.

A WIDE range for a selection, in Chevots, Broadcloths, Tan Coat Cloth, variously trimmed with self-strap and buttons. Prices range from \$6.98 to \$22.50

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## Children's New Reefers

THE new Reefers for little tots have arrived; the styles are decidedly beautiful, short and three-quarter lengths, all very handsomely trimmed.

SPECIAL—Children's three-quarter length Reefers of all-wool Habit Cloth, with large fancy collars, stole front, nicely trimmed with silk and wool soutache braid, finished with medallions—\$2.25 values—special. \$1.49 Monday at

Children's three-quarter length Reefers of fine all-wool Broadcloth, Chevot, Alpaca and Venetian Cloth, made with round and square capes, bishop sleeves, turnover cuffs and pleated back; beautifully trimmed with silk soutache and mohair braid, applique and medallions—\$3.98 values—special Monday. \$2.98

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